

## INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE CITIES

### Pupils Box and Tango in This Modern School

NEW YORK.—What would you think of a school where children are allowed to do just as they please? Where a boy stealing jam is simply asked to consider whether he has not done wrong?



Where two pupils having a flat fight in the classroom are asked whether it would not show more regard for their teacher and the other boys and girls if they went into the play-yard to battle?

Where a girl dancing the tango in the middle of the recitation room and singing an accompaniment is admonished, but allowed to proceed if she pleases?

Where each boy or girl can do just what particular lesson seems most to his or her liking, and can drop the study of geography to peer through a microscope at will?

Yet just exactly these and even more remarkable things are on view in the school of anarchy: children in East One Hundred and Seventh street, your correspondent found the other day. I heard about these things, but scarcely believed. So I went up myself to find out.

As I was talking to Mrs. Cornelia Stephenson, the teacher, a boy of twelve got up, whispered in the ear of a girl of ten and led her to an open place. They proceeded to do a very spirited dance, the name of which I do not know. The other pupils applauded furiously.

At this instant a dark-eyed boy, slightly larger than Giuseppe, left the spectators of the dance and seized Maria, wrested her from her partner and whirled her in a new evolution.

Giuseppe was thrown to the floor, but he jumped up immediately and struck the newcomer a good uppercut on the jaw. The two boys were soon having an excellent boxing bout, much to the delight of Maria, et al.

"Boys, boys, what a foolish thing to fight about," Maria is willing to dance with both of you," said Mrs. Stephenson, but without excitement.

"There, now, you have upset the globe. Didn't you agree with me yesterday that the sidewalk was a much more appropriate place to decide quarrels than the study room?"

"They will see their errors soon; it would be dangerous to their initiative and enterprise to prevent them from dancing or fighting. Children naturally dance and fight. It is not good to stop them."

"But supposing a child said he was going to jump out of the window?" I asked anxiously.

"Well, none of them ever did—but we would simply try to show them the reasons for not injuring themselves. They could jump if they decided to. The Modern school has no rules or regulations. It is not authoritarian like the public schools, which cramp the child's mind and body. It is libertarian."

"We believe in the freedom of the child. We discuss with them what is right and wrong, but we never forbid them things and never punish them." The Modern school has 40 pupils.

### Ghost Brings Wagonload of Police to a House

PITTSBURGH, PA.—No character conceived in the fertile mind of A. Conan Doyle, no bandit of the time of the James brothers, no kidnaper of the type that poisoned Charlie Ross, no bank burglar of the "good old days" when bank burglary was a safe and sane pastime, ever proved more elusive to the officers of the law than the creature who has terrorized a section of East Liberty and for whom a wagonload of police searched in vain. There are grave doubts in the minds of the authorities if the perpetrator of several scares in the Howe street-Denniston avenue section ever will be brought before the bar of justice.

In the stillness of the midnight hour there was a shriek that aroused slumbers in that usually quiet neighborhood. A telephone call to the Frankstown avenue police station brought the patrol wagon and a detail of reserves. The officers found in a faint a young woman residing with her mother in a rooming house on the veranda of the house. As she entered, so she told the police, she saw a white figure, with a dark shawl over its shoulders, pass the hallway. That was all she remembered until she was resuscitated. Then, upon seeing a great, blue-coated officer standing near her, she shrieked and fainted again. The officers searched the house from cellar to roof and back again, but nary a trace could they find of the ghost.

There was a decidedly active breeze stirring throughout the East end that night. Lace curtains, in their ghostly whiteness, flaunted startlingly from windows that had been left open.

"We had a vague suspicion as to the identity of that ghost," remarked Police Captain Ford, "but we never can hope to get him behind the bars."

"Whom do you suspect?"

"Old Man Boreas," replied the captain with a smile, "the most notorious and vigorous of all who perpetrate ghostly outrages."

### Postmaster Thought Five Days Was the Limit

CHICAGO.—Chicago lost a championship the other day. The decision was made against Assistant Postmaster John M. Hubbard. He vigorously controverted a statement by Daniel Vaughan, publication clerk of the United States department of commerce, in Washington, who declared that the gold medal ignoramus resides in this city.

According to Mr. Vaughan, a Chicago man received from the department several days ago a copy of the publication of 1,400 pages, entitled "The Commerce and Navigation of the United States." On the left hand corner of the envelope was the usual legend, "Return in Five Days."

Mr. Vaughan received a letter from the Chicago man, who said he had been sitting up nights to read the publication, but had been unable to do so within the "five days." He asked permission to keep the book three days longer.

"If the ignominious championship is to be awarded on such a faux pas, then the championship rightfully belongs to an Indiana village postmaster," said Mr. Hubbard.

"Not long ago a traveling salesman asked whether a letter had arrived for him. The drummer was keen to get the missive, as he expected it would contain a check to cover expenses, sent by his firm in New York. When the postmaster informed him that he had received such a letter, but had sent it back, the salesman was furious and demanded the reason.

"Well, my friend," said the postmaster, "that letter said on the front, 'Return in Five Days,' now I calculated that the letter took two days to come from New York, and it would take two days going back. So you see, I could keep it here only one day."

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## CAPE COD CANAL COMPLETED AFTER THREE CENTURIES

Dimensions Greater Than the Original Suez Canal.

TOTAL COST IS \$12,000,000

Is 13 Miles Long and Has Minimum Depth at Low Water of 25 Feet and in No Place is Less Than 100 Feet Wide at Bottom.

New York.—Recently there was opened across the long arm of Cape Cod, Mass., a waterway which will probably accommodate more tonnage than the Panama canal for a good many years. This will surprise many, for the Cape Cod canal work has been done without much blare of trumpets or congressional oratory. But it is a most notable achievement and puts much nearer the realization the dream of an all inland waterway from Maine to Florida.

The freight now rounding dangerous Cape Cod and its shoals every year amounts to 25,000,000 tons and practically all this is expected to take the new shorter and safer route. The canal cost about \$12,000,000. The Panama canal costing \$400,000,000 will have but 10,500,000 tons annually, it is estimated. The great new barge canal in New York state which serves to bring the grain of the West from Lake Erie to New York city is costing \$100,000,000 and its prospective tonnage is but 4,000,000 tons.

So it is difficult to see why the Cape Cod canal was not constructed before. It has been discussed since shortly after the Pilgrims landed in the vicinity. It hung fire for almost three hundred years, but now it will probably be self supporting from the start.

Vessels from ports all along the coast as far south as Charleston, S. C., will use the canal going to and from Boston. Twenty-five thousand craft a



August Belmont.

year now go around Cape Cod, but at a fearful loss in foundered and wrecked ships and with extra charges for insurance. The average delay per round trip for barges and schooners going outside is calculated to be nearly four days.

This means ten cents a ton loss in money on the 7,000,000 tons of coal and lumber carried by sailing craft and towed. Steamers carry an additional 4,500,000 tons on which nearly the same proportional amount will be saved by the new route.

The length of the waterway is eight miles in land while its length from 30-foot water in Barnstable bay on the

northeast to 30-foot water in Buzzard's bay on the southeast is 13 miles. It has a minimum depth at low water of 25 feet and is in no place less than 100 feet wide at the bottom. It is 200 feet wide at the passing place for ships and there is a 3,000-foot breakwater.

The canal is greater in its dimensions than the original Suez canal or the present Manchester canal.

The toll rates will range from \$5 for



Canal Looking Toward Buzzard's Bay.

motor boats and other little craft to \$100 for trading ships of 950 to 999 gross tons and ten cents per gross ton for merchant vessels of more than 1,000 gross tons.

The successful completion of Cape Cod canal is due principally to the energy of three men—August Belmont, financial backer; William Barclay Parsons, the celebrated engineer who supervised the work for the Cape Cod Construction company of which Mr. Belmont is president, and Frank A. Furt, a Baltimore engineering man whose concern did the actual excavating.

Those who think of the construction of a canal as digging away a lot of sand are much mistaken. The builders encountered hard pan and boulders, left by glaciers, according to geologists, which proved almost as tough as solid rock.

There were five previous abortive attempts to cut across Cape Cod.

At Cape Cod the Arctic current meets the Atlantic current and a dense fog is the result. Off Pollock's Rip there are 1,052 hours of fog annually and 2,141 vessels have been wrecked here. The dangers of this fog were fully realized by the discoverers and settlers of the cape.

Bartholomew Gould, of whom little

## Republic Proves a Mystery

Chinese Peasants Cannot Grasp Idea of a Great Nation Governing Itself.

Peking.—The peace loving nature of the Chinese and the indifference of the general Chinese population living away from the larger commercial cities is well illustrated by a story which Mr. K. H. Cheng, secretary of the board of communications here, relates.

Last year the then minister of war, Wang Sze Cheng, traveled into the interior to meet a certain general; he alighted at Shih Chia Chang, on the Hankow-Peking railway, and took a cart to reach the appointed place.

As they journeyed quietly along the country road the driver broke the silence and inquired where his passenger came from. On learning he was from Peking, he followed this up by asking: "Where is the emperor?"

The minister of war replied: "Oh, we now have a republic."

"But what is the meaning of a republic?"

"A republic means that the country is now governed by the people."

"But," inquired the driver, "how can the people govern? They all have their own work to do."

The minister tried to explain, but the driver continued: "A country without an emperor is like a shop without a boss and without business. If every one governs, then every one

is known, first sighted the cape in 1620. In 1820 the Pilgrims settled here and three years later we learn that a trading business had been established between this English colony and the Dutch of New Amsterdam.

Capt. Miles Standish, among others, avoided the dangerous fogs of the cape, navigating his little boat up the Scusset river to its head and then transporting the tiny craft across the intervening land to the Monument river. The people of the Massachusetts colony in 1876 had experts to go over the ground and consider the cutting of a canal across the cape, but decided the work was too great. In 1897 another committee reported on the project and in 1936 a disgusted historian speaks of the "place through which a canal has been talked this 40 years."

The first actual digging took place in 1880, but was almost immediately abandoned. In 1883 excavators took out a million cubic yards of earth. Then the work stopped. Nothing more of importance was done until 1909 when work started on June 22. This was a little over five years ago.

Eight powerful dredges, one of them the largest in the world, and eight tugs were employed in the work. The plant used was worth a million dollars. The builders are proud of their record of no life lost in the course of the work.

There are two highway bridges over the canal, one at Boone and the other at Sagamore. They are longer than necessary for provision is left to widen the canal to 200 feet. It may be enlarged so as to accommodate the largest vessels afloat.

The distance from Boston to New York by way of Long Island, Vineyard



and Nantucket sounds is 334 miles. The distance by Long Island sound and Cape Cod canal is only 264 miles. This difference in distance, however, does not do full justice to the saving in time accomplished by the new waterway.

Bartholomew Gould, of whom little

is like the emperor and we have no one to look up to."

After considerable talk of this nature the minister gave up in despair the task of explanation and said: "The emperor is too young to rule; he is only a baby, and we have sent him away to be educated."

The cart driver persisted, and said: "But why send him away? Before we had no trouble; now we have nothing but trouble."

"This illustrates the attitude of the bulk of the Chinese people toward politics, and also their one desire to be let alone in peace."

The Chinese have no ideograph for the word "republic," and in their written word it takes several ideographs to explain it.

CENSURE FOR A BUSYBODY

Took a "Drunk" to a Police Station and Is Severely Rebuked for His Pains.

London.—A stinging rebuke was administered to a busybody at Barnstable police court.

A charge of drunkenness was made against a man who had been taken to the police station by a private individual. When the man was brought before the bench the mayor asked if it was customary for a private citizen to take a man in charge in such circumstances. It seemed to him to be most unusual. If he had met a man in that state of incapacity he would have taken him to his home.

The chief constable said it was the first time within his experience that a civilian had brought any one to be locked up.

The mayor said it was a "mean and contemptible trick," and the magistrates dismissed the case on the payment of costs.

BOUGHT A CHURCH FOR \$20

Parsonage of One-Member "Flock" Brought \$340—Organ Brings Big Sum of \$150.

Winsted, Conn.—The Methodist church building in West Goshen was sold under the hammer to W. H. Wadhams for \$20. The news and other fixtures were included in the purchase. Mr. Wadhams also purchased the land on which the building stands, paying \$40 for it.

The parsonage was sold to E. O. Wright for \$340. The organ was bought by F. Ray Wadhams for \$150, a melody by the Goshen school committee for \$6.50; church bells by Mrs. Harrison Ives, \$18, and the barn by W. H. Wadhams, \$9. The money will be turned over to the New York East conference. The church has only one member, besides three trustees. Hence the sale.

Lineman Asleep on Pole.

Pendleton, Ore.—M. Morgan, a local telephone lineman, caused a commotion at the intersection of Main and Bluff streets when he fell asleep at the top of a telephone pole.

Passersby, seeing the motionless figure of a man lying across the cross-arm with arms and legs dangling in the air, thought he had been electrocuted. When assistance arrived it was found the man had merely been lulled to sleep by the warm sun. His belt prevented his falling.

## NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

### Plan Home Classes in Practical Agriculture

WASHINGTON.—A plan whereby ten or more farmers or farm women can form home classes in agriculture or domestic science and receive the textbooks, lectures, lantern slides, laboratory and cooking equipment necessary to conduct them has been devised by the United States department of agriculture in cooperation with agricultural colleges of certain states.

The object of the plan is to make accessible at home, to men and women who have not the time or means to attend the regular courses at the colleges, practical short courses in agriculture and home management specially adapted to their districts. These courses, which will consist of 15 to 20 lectures, and will consume five or more weeks, can be arranged to suit the spare time and convenience of each group of people.

The courses to be offered at first are poultry raising, fruit growing, soils, cheese manufacturing, dairying, butter making, and farm bookkeeping; and for the women especially, courses in the preparation, cooking and use of vegetable and cereal foods. The department will supply lectures and lantern slides covering these subjects, and the states which have agreed to co-operate in the plan will lend to each group laboratory and cooking apparatus valued at \$100 and a reference library. The textbooks and lectures will be made so complete that each group can safely appoint one of its members as study leader to direct the work of the course.

When a group has decided to take up the work, the state which co-operates sends an agent with the department's representative to organize a sample class and assist the leader whom they elect in laying out the work and in showing him the best methods of procedure. The classes commonly are held from eight to twelve in the morning and from one to four in the afternoon, two or three days each week. The sessions are not held every day, so that the members will have time to attend to their farm duties in between the sessions, as well as before and after the instruction period. The classes meet commonly at the most convenient farmhouse. During the morning hours, textbook work is done. In the afternoon laboratory work is conducted, and the women who have elected to take the domestic science courses have practical lessons in cooking.

As soon as a class is established, the state organizer withdraws to start a class in some other district. The work thereafter is left in charge of the leader, who receives assistance by mail from the college or the department in carrying on the work.

As there is no regularly paid instructor, classes can be carried on all over the state as rapidly as the college organizer can visit the groups, and as quickly as the laboratory sets supplied by the college become available. The local leader will preside during the reading of the lectures and references, for which full texts and lantern slides are supplied by the department. He will also be responsible for the laboratory equipment. Every one who completes the course will receive a certificate from the state college.

### Trapped While at Work Under a Banquet Table

THE story is just getting around about a dinner given in exclusive Washington society, at which the most tactful person was undoubtedly a plumber in overalls. It was an elaborate dinner. The central feature of the table decoration was a playing fountain.

But just before the dinner was to be served the fountain refused to play.

A plumber was hastily called. He crawled under the table and soon had the fountain sending a delicate spray into the air. He was busy tightening the couplings of the temporary pipes under the table when the head butler, his mind relieved of a load of care when he saw the fountain playing, announced in the drawing room:

"Dinner is served."

Before the plumber knew what was happening the guests had entered the dining room, chairs were drawn up, and he suddenly found himself hemmed in by a wall in which trousers alternated with skirts.

It was a big round table, so he was safe from discovery from any shifting foot. He scratched his head and wondered what he should do. He looked carefully around. Neither to the right nor to the left nor between any pair of feet was there sufficient space for him to wiggle through. The only way to get out would be to tap on some knee and—"Pardon me, please."

He didn't know much about the etiquette of formal dinner parties, but he had a hunch that that wouldn't make a hit. He decided that there was just one thing to do—stay where he was until the trouser-and-skirt wall departed. So there he sat.

When the dinner was at last over and the guests had returned to the drawing room the plumber crawled forth.

The hostess had tarried for a moment to give a few directions to the head butler. She gasped with astonishment.

The plumber explained.

"Sir," said she, "you are a gentleman." Then to the head butler:

"James, give this man \$10 for himself." Then to the plumber: "And please say nothing."

### No National Holidays in the United States

YOU might suppose that July 4 is a national holiday, but it isn't. Worse than that, there isn't such a thing as a national holiday in the whole United States. A patriotic young woman in Brookland spent a quarter in phone calls just to find out. She is a young woman who likes to know things, and when some connoisseur cast a doubt as to the nationality of the day we celebrate, she called up a Washington newspaper and got this answer:

"There is no national holiday in the United States."

On the principle that you can't believe everything a paper says, she phoned to the head of an educational institution, and was told by an authority, who asked not to be quoted, that to the best of his impression there were no holidays, etc.

Still clinging to her faith in a nation-legalized Fourth, the young woman called up a second newspaper, to learn from the voice at the other end of the wire that the head of the information bureau was out for an hour, but if she couldn't wait that long she had better call up a third newspaper.

So she phoned to the third newspaper, to be cheered with the prompt assurance that there are at least five national holidays.

In this conflict of opinions, and not being able to get the state department or the attorney general's office—both closed July 4—the young woman rang up President Wilson.

She was told that the White House did not know, but that as soon as the information could be obtained she would be called up, which was done within the hour. And that settled it.

"We have no national holidays in the United States."

"Prophet Without Honor in His Own Country"

THAT "a prophet is without honor in his own country" was very clearly shown the other day at Marshall hall. The day was an ideal one, and a Washington woman, taking advantage of that fact, put some lunch in a basket, took her daughter, annexed two other children and went down the river to let the tots enjoy the fun of pink lemonade and peanuts.

Presently the children got tired wandering around, peeping at the tomb of the ancient Marshalls, and went to the pony track, where a dozen barefoot colored boys were in charge of the pets. The oldest of them, Virgil, was a round-headed boy with a face as brown as a seal and a mouth that looked like a slit in a watermelon. His main interest in life was the ponies, and such impediments as clothing and learning were regarded contemptuously as useless incumbrances. To enjoy the present moment was his only motto.

The Washington woman showed the white ponies of Mount Vernon. "Did you ever hear of George Washington, Virgil?" asked the lady as she watched a whole banana disappear down that personage's throat.

Virgil dug his toes in the dirt, looked around appealingly at the rest of the children, then blurted out:

"No'm, I ain't ever heard of no George Washington, 'ceptin' unless you means my uncle, George Washington, 'whit libes down de road a piece."

Such is fame—and in the very shadow of the vine and fig tree of the Father of His Country.

### Real Souls Are Scarce; One Found in Detroit

DETROIT, MICH.—Charlie Daniels called up to tell about a young robin that had fallen out of its nest. Charlie has been game wardening around Wayne county so long that he takes a fatherly interest in all young and unprotected things. He's got a sympathetic heart. His voice was tremulous with the emotion that possessed his soul, as he told of the peril that beset this particular birdie.

It appears that Birdie had tumbled out of a tree in Mrs. Flannery's back yard at 59 Pacific avenue and she rescued it from a flock of avocet cats that infest the neighborhood.

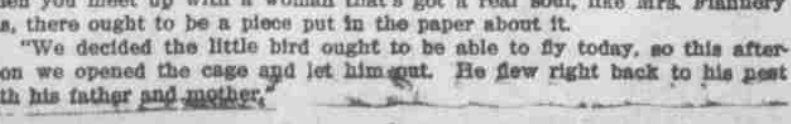
"She took that there robin and put it in a cage," said Charlie, "and she kept it in her barn, where the cats couldn't get at it. The mother bird and the father bird soon found out where the bird was and every once in a while they fetched it food—angleworms, fish flies, caterpillars, grasshoppers and such like."

"It was there pretty near a week."

"She called me up and she wanted to know if she was doing the right thing by that there bird and I told her it was all right with me."

"I want to tell you there's a lot of hard-hearted people in this world and when you meet up with a woman that's got a real soul, like Mrs. Flannery has, there ought to be a piece put in the paper about it."

"We decided the little bird ought to be able to fly today, so this afternoon we opened the cage and let him out. He flew right back to his post with his father and mother."



### CARRIED OFF A MILLION IN LOOT



Gen. Joaquin Maas and Maria Maas photographed on board the S. S. Esparyne on their departure from Puerto Mexico with the million dollars in gold stolen from the banks at Saltillo.

### KILLS FAMILY AS HE DREAMS

Army Man Thinks They Are in Arabs' Hands—He Then Commits Suicide.

Oran, Algeria.—Under the influence of an overpowering hallucination that Arabs were about to capture them, Captain Goetz of the Second regiment, foreign legion, shot and killed his wife and three children as they slept and then committed suicide. The captain left a letter explaining

that he had been suffering from hallucinations of ever increasing force for some months. During the night a vision of his wife and children in the hands of Arabs, being subjected to torture, recurred so vividly that he seized a pistol to kill them and thus save them from horrors worse than death. As on previous occasions the hallucination passed quickly and he was confronted with his dreadful deed. Overcome with grief, he resolved to join his family in death and sent a bullet through his brain.

Lineman Asleep on Pole.

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Passersby, seeing the motionless figure of a man lying across the cross-arm with arms and legs dangling in the air, thought he had been electrocuted. When assistance arrived it was found the man had merely been lulled to sleep by the warm sun. His belt prevented his falling.

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